

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SAB-01 SAM-01 SR-02

ORM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 NIC-01

SAJ-01 AF-04 ACDA-05 /092 W
----- 090268

R 051300Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3459

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 5420

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AG, SW, XF

SUBJECT: PLO OFFICIAL IN STOCKHOLM

REF: STOCKHOLM 5164 AND PREVIOUS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. THE STOCKHOLM PRESS OF DECEMBER REPORTED THE PRESENCE
IN SWEDEN OF FEISAL ABU GAMAL, DESCRIBED AS AN OFFICIAL IN
THE INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZA-
TION (PLO) IN BEIRUT. ABU GAMAL TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE
PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT IS TO "MEET PALESTINIANS AND INFORM
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(THE PUBLIC) ABOUT PLO POLICIES." THE PLO OFFICIAL ALSO

SAID HE HOPED TO MEET WITH SWEDISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

2. THE VISITING PLO REPRESENTATIVE HAD A NUMBER OF FAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT SWEDISH MIDEAST POLICY. HE NOTED THAT SWEDEN HAD VOTED TO GIVE PLO LEADER ARAFAT AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE UNGA. WHILE IT WAS TRUE THAT SWEDEN HAD ABSTAINED ON THE PRO-ARAB UN RESOLUTION, ABU GAMAL OBSERVED THAT THIS "WAS NO SURPRISE; ONE CANNOT EXPECT A GOVERNMENT TO SUDDENLY TURN PRO-ARAB AFTER HAVING BEEN PRO-ISRAEL." REFERRING TO PRIME MINISTER PALME'S MEETING WITH ARAFAT IN ALGIERS, ABU GAMAL SAID THAT "EVEN IF IT DID NOT RESULT IN ANYTHING CONCRETE, IT OPENED THE WAY FOR A BETTER UNDERSTANDING." IN GENERAL, HE ADDED, "THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT HAS SHOWN THAT IT IS PREPARED TO LISTEN TO US AND TO TRY TO UNDERSTAND OUR POLICIES."

3. WITH REGARD TO ISRAEL, THE PLO OFFICIAL MAINTAINED THAT THE PLO IS "MAKING ALMOST DAILY RAIDS AGAINST THAT COUNTRY, ESPECIALLY AGAINST INDUSTRIAL TARGETS." HE SAID THE SWEDISH VIEW THAT ISRAEL HAD A RIGHT TO LIVE WITHIN SECURE BORDERS IS UNACCEPTABLE TO THE PLO. "THE RISK FOR A NEW WAR IS VERY GREAT," ABU GAMAL OBSERVED, "AND IT IS LIKELY TO START BEFORE SPRING." WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE ISRAELIS MIGHT CONCEIVABLY WIN SUCH A WAR, ABU GAMAL CONCLUDED, "IN DUE COURSE THE ISRAELIS WILL FORCE THEIR LEADERS TO NEGOTIATE A SOLUTION TO THE PALESTINE PROBLEM." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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4. COMMENT: HAVING BEEN EMBARRASSED BY THE PALME-ARAFAT MEETING IN ALGIERS AND THE IMPLICATION OF A "TILT" IN SWEDISH POLICY TOWARDS THE ARABS, THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HANDLE MR. ABU GAMAL CAREFULLY. WHILE MFA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT THE PLO OFFICIAL WILL PROBABLY BE RECEIVED BY ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS EDELSTAM, THE GOS WILL PROBABLY TRY TO DOWNPLAY THEIR CONTACTS WITH THE VISITING PALESTINIAN AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO MFA OFFICIALS, SHOULD THE PLO PUSH FOR THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INFORMATION OFFICE HERE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE GOS WOULD GIVE IT FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION IN VIEW OF ITS LIBERAL POLICY TOWARD SUCH OFFICES. STRAUSZ-HUPE

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